

a Sainsburys and Marks and Spencer stores. None of the other British *Cimbex* species feed on alder so it was thought likely that the larvae could be those of *C. connatus*. The larvae were retained, but although they produced cocoons, no adults were reared.

More larvae were sent from the same source in September 2001, but so far these have also failed to produce any adults. However, on 19 June 2002, the local resident who had first noticed the larvae found a dead female on the ground under the alder trees. It was in two-dimensional form, presumably having been trodden on, but clearly identifiable as *Cimbex connatus*.

It is possible that this sawfly has lingered on in Britain unnoticed for almost 50 years. However, it is up to 28 mm long with a broad robust body; the thorax and the first two abdominal segments are violet black in contrast with the pale yellow of the other abdominal segments. It is the sort of insect that is likely to attract attention, even amongst those who have no interest in sawflies. The larvae are also large and likely to be found by entomologists beating for larvae. It is possible that the trees used for landscaping the car park in the early 1990s were imported and that the sawfly may have been introduced with them, perhaps as overwintering prepupal larvae in their cocoons in the soil. The specimen in Wiltshire in 1997 was found in a semi-natural situation, but that description cannot be applied to a supermarket car park.

I am grateful to Jackie Donovan for spotting the larvae on the car park alders near her home, and for her continued interest that enabled the insect to be positively identified.— A. J. HALSTEAD, RHS Garden, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB.

***Alphitophagus bifasciatus* Say and other beetles captured using a “suction sampler” on tree trunks and logs**

Suction samplers are becoming increasingly frequent tools for the entomologist. A small two-stroke garden “blower-vac” is used to suck up insects into a muslin bag secured over the inlet spout. They have proved especially useful in finding insects in close-cropped grassland where the sward is not long enough to use a sweep net. Having recently bought a McColough BVM 240 blowervac (£99 from B&Q), I set about testing it and was delighted with the results. As part of my experimentation with the new device, I have tried using it to Hoover-up insects on tree trunks and logs, especially web-filled dusty cavities and the half-hidden sides of logs. Here are a few early results. *Alphitophagus bifasciatus* Say (Tenebrionidae), two specimens from large fallen beech log, Sydenham Hill Wood (TQ345725, VC17, Surrey), 16.vi.2002. Although reputedly widespread in mouldy flour, this often synanthropic beetle is very local. The mouldy insides of large broad-leaved trees are probably the “natural” habitat for this species. This is the first time I have ever found this beetle. The ancient trunk rested on a steep slope so extra care was necessary as I walked precariously down it carrying the machine ahead of me.

Mycetophagus piceus (Fabricius) (Mycetophagidae), one specimen from an apparently sound oak tree, Cox's Walk (TQ345731, VC17, Surrey), 10.vi.2002. Although showing no major signs of decay, the bark in some areas was riddled with

the characteristic D-shaped exit holes of *Agrilus pannonicus* (Piller & Mitterpacher). The beetle must have been sheltering on the rough bark.

Saprosites species (Scarabaeidae), a dead specimen from the same oak tree in Cox's Walk, 10.vi.2002. Although previously identified as *Saprosites mendax* Blackburn, it is likely that London specimens of this genus are attributable to another species (R. Angus, pers. comm.). This species appears to be spreading and is frequent, flying, in my garden in East Dulwich two kilometres away.

Aderus oculatus (Paykul) (Aderidae), many specimens from the side/underside of a large dusty cobweb-encrusted log, probably oak, Downham Woodland Walk, (TQ3972, VC16, West Kent), 19.vi.2002, 2.vii.2002.

Silvanus unidentatus (Fab.) (Silvanidae), one specimen from the leaf litter beneath a small log, probably oak, Dulwich Wood (TQ342724, VC17, Surrey), 21.v.2002. Turning the log revealed very few insects on its underside, but this specimen was sucked up from the leaf litter beneath.— RICHARD A. JONES, 135 Friern Road, East Dulwich, London SE22 0AZ (E-mail: bugmanjones@hotmail.com).

***Agrodiaetus nephohiptamenos* Brown & Coutsis (Lep.: Lycaenidae) in North Greece**

On 8 August 200, at 11.30 hours, male *Agrodiaetus nephohiptamenos* Brown & Coutsis, 1978 (*Ent. Gaz.* **29**: 201-213) were observed at 1500 metres above sea level on the main ski-lift road up to Mount Falakron, near Drama, North Greece. They were attracted in some numbers with other lycaenids (such as *Lysandra philippi* Brown & Coutsis) to areas of wet mud beside the road. The butterflies were pumping up moisture through their uncoiled probosces, and this activity was assisted by a rhythmic circling action of their hind-wings.

At about 1600 metres up a sub-alpine grass gully, a few female *A. nephohiptamenos* were observed nectaring at white *Scabious* flowers. However, a concentration of male and female *A. nephohiptamenos* was found at between 1800-1900 metres on the top of a rounded peak of the mountain well above the tree-line and ski-centre plateau. Males appeared to be less common than females here. In this area, the course, fine-bladed grass had been moderately grazed by cattle and there were bare patches of stony soil. It was dry and sunny with a cool breeze and occasional clouds passing over. A flock of yellow-billed choughs was milling around the mountain top, and meadow pipits and wheatears were present. There was a hazy view over the plains to the south. A few male *Erebia melas* Herbst. were flying further down the slope. All in all, it was a good place to be.

The *A. nephohiptamenos* butterflies were highly active in the sunshine, but quickly became torpid when cloud obscured the sun. The males spent most of the time on the wing, flying rapidly with frequent changes of direction. Generally, the female *A. nephohiptamenos* were more sedentary than the males and engaged in a number of activities, which included nectaring at a range of flowers and flying rapidly close to the ground in search of larval food plants. One male approached a female that was resting on a grass stem. The female partially opened its wings. The male rapidly fluttered its wings and then both flew up high in a courtship flight.